

Patent

## ANKLE REPLACEMENT SYSTEM

### Related Applications

This application is a divisional of co-pending, <sup>now</sup> U.S. Patent No. 6,663,669, filed 20  
U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/694,100  
5 October 2000 which claims the benefit of United States  
Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/160,892,  
filed October 22, 1999, and entitled "Ankle Replacement  
Systems," which is incorporated herein by reference.

### Background of the Invention

#### 10 1. Field of the Invention

The invention relates to ankle replacement  
systems including designs, methods and apparatus that  
reduce and/or prevent problems associated with  
subsidence, loosening, and late infection, in part, by  
15 incorporating a novel surgical procedure for replacing an  
ankle, at least in part, through a tibial tubercle  
exposure. The present invention is also directed to novel  
surgical instruments useful for performing an ankle  
replacement procedure.

#### 20 2. Description of the Background

Until the early to mid 1970's, patients with  
injured or diseased ankle joints commonly resulting from  
rheumatism, or degenerative or traumatic arthritis, had  
few options when their ankle joints failed. The most  
25 common procedure to help these patients regain some use